Economic and Community Impact on Metro Detroit 2020-21
University of Detroit Mercy. A Catholic university in the Jesuit and Mercy traditions, it aims to provide excellent student-centered undergraduate, graduate and professional education in an urban context.

This year, U.S. News & World Report’s “Best Colleges” Edition ranked Detroit Mercy No. 187 in the Best National Universities category and is one of four universities in Michigan ranked among the top 200 in the nation.

As an urban university, it is committed to nurturing the well-being of our community in metro Detroit through educational initiatives, professional services and community investments. Since 1877, the University has been a valuable higher education resource to both Detroit and southeastern Michigan.

Economic Impact on Metro Detroit

The 2020-21 fiscal year operating budget totaled $166 million.
- Detroit Mercy has 1,014 employees.
- Employee compensation for 2020-21 fiscal year totaled $110 million.
- Detroit Mercy has a service-learning curriculum component that contributed more than $7,500 student volunteer hours to more than 100 metro Detroit community service agencies during fiscal year 2020-21.
- Approximately $10 million in contracts were awarded to Detroit vendors in the 2020-21 fiscal year.
- Detroit Mercy has an estimated annual economic impact of more than $310,410,000.

Business and Community Development Initiatives

In 2015, Detroit Mercy and The Kresge Foundation co-founded Livelink Alliance to strengthen the Livernois Avenue and McNichols Road commercial corridor and invade West Detroit. The organization has implemented a variety of revitalization strategies, including establishing the Liveli Community Advisory Board; collaborating with community organizations to produce events in the corridor; providing services to the area that are foundational to the area’s future; and holding workshops on neighborhood revitalization.

Detroit Mercy was a member of the application team that submitted the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Rebuild Detroit: The Future of Detroit initiative, which was implemented in 2017. This initiative included the Detroit Collaborative Design Center (DCDC), which provides multiple continuing education courses to support practitioners in managing stress and mental health. These free wellness courses were designed to help the practitioner’s mental health.

Academic Outreach

Detroit Mercy’s colleges and schools provide a variety of academic outreach programs to serve community needs, including the following examples:

**School of Architecture**

- Provides services to the community development (CDC) students who have made a positive impact in Detroit neighborhoods by partnering with 15 community organizations or projects, such as Grandmont Rosedale Development Corporation, Chaldean Community College and Park Avenue Presbyterian Church.

**College of Business Administration**

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance: After completing Internal Revenue Service (IRS) training, Accounting students and faculty donated more than 370 hours of free income tax preparation services to 150 taxpayers, generating more than $100,000 in refunds and saving taxpayers more than $33,000 in fees.

Service Learning: Fourteen business courses, enrolling 478 students, generated nearly 3,000 service hours during the year. For example, financial literacy lessons were provided to 150 middle school and high school students, and first-year business students, as a part of a reflection-garden on the Detroit Mercy campus, received more than $50,000 in services from students.

**Center for Social Entrepreneurship (CSE)**

CSE works with entrepreneurs to design solutions to social problems, with focus on using business models to create social good. The CSE has helped its students create and launch eight social enterprises, to more than 40 new business ventures, helping them raise more than $1.4 million in financing. The CSE also hosts major conferences, including the Detroit Nonprofit Day and the Empower20 Symposium. CSE activities impact nearly 7,600 individuals each year.

Media Impact: Local and national news media seeking expert commentary on current issues cited College of Business Administration faculty 97 times in newspapers, radio and TV, reaching an estimated 1.2亿 readers, listeners and viewers.

**School of Dentistry**

This fall, the Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry and the school-based odontologist program, Detroit Mercy’s School of Dentistry completed 93,700 patient visits each year that included $372,301 in uncompensated care. This care was provided through Medicaid rates and is available via an institutional and state-funded subsidy of $8,566,000. The program provided care to 14 community sites statewide and provided more than 8,390 patient visits in areas in which it is difficult for patients to access care. Students participate in outreach activities throughout the year and provide care to resident run/ faculty-supervised free clinics.

**College of Engineering & Science**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) awarded $21.2 million to University of Detroit Mercy, the University of Michigan and Wayne State University in 2014 to implement a program encouraging more undergraduate students from underrepresented or economically disadvantaged backgrounds to pursue careers in biomedical research in the state. Detroit Mercy has awarded more than $3,500,000 to its students since the program began in 2016. The program is called REU/REBUD. REBUD begins with a pre-university summer enrichment program, which assists students in developing skills to succeed in college. On the first day of their undergraduate careers, scholars engage in authentic research projects and learn about scientific research methods. During their second semester, they are paired with mentors and meet in small groups to discuss their research. The scholars are provided opportunities to conduct research in their labs and share in the scientific exchange of discovery through journal articles and conferences. As of fall 2020, there have been 152 REBUD scholars.

Detroit Mercy’s College of Engineering & Science received a five-year National Science Foundation Scholarship in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (NSF-S-STEM) grant of $998,996 to provide academic and tuition programming for students historically underrepresented in STEM careers. Shadi Bani Taan, associate professor of Computer Science, leads the project, which is titled Science and Engineering Equity Development (SEED).

Elaine Bloch, the Institute for Innovation, Assistant dean and Biochemistry professor, along with collaborators at several universities, received a $998,996 National Science Foundation ADVANCE grant to support the advancement of mid-career STEM female faculty member mental health.

**School of Education**

The College’s high school STEM pathways program called Innovating Detroit’s Robotic Agile Workforce (iDRAW) began its second year of operation under a $651,000 grant from the Northwest Michigan’s Marsha For Talent. During the fall of 2020, 140 iDRAW students were exposed to the world of robotics and design through Detroit Mercy including a new Mechatronics course. Each student in the Mechatronics course field tested the designs created by teammates on simulated motors and Arduino microcontroller to take home to facilitate their remote learning.

In the summer of 2020, the College held a two-week long virtual workshop for 14 local high school teachers with the support of a $25,000 grant from the Ford STEAM organization to train and implement the instruction for future STEM teachers. Each teacher received a kit of tools, such as science, and career and technical education to help them better integrate technology and engineering applications into their course.

**College of Health Professions/McAuley School of Nursing**

Provides through the Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention Interprofessional Collaborative Practice Program: Behavioral Health Integrated HRSA grant (U57HP30928).

**School of Law**

The School of Law provides legal assistance to residents of Detroit and surrounding communities, through the following clinics: Appellate Veterans Law Clinic, Criminal Trial Clinic, Environmental Law Clinic, Family Law Clinic, Federal Pro Se Legal Assistance Clinic, Housing Law Clinic, Immigration Law Clinic, International Intellectual Property Clinic, Juvenile Appellate Clinic, Trademark and Entrepreneur Clinic and Veterans Law Clinic.

**College of Liberal Arts & Education**

Detroit Mercy’s Counseling Clinic serves approximately 250 individuals each year providing no-cost counseling services to Detroit residents who otherwise would not have access to mental health services. The Psychology Clinic provides services for approximately 300 clients annually.

**The Center for Cybersecurity & Intelligence Studies**

Hosted its annual CyberProfessor Summer Camp for 50 middle and high school students who wish to learn about cybersecurity and compete in the Air Force Association CyberPatriot National Competition. The virtual camp served students and instructors from 15 academic and industry partners.

The Center also debuted the Detroit Mercy Cybersecurity 313 Podcast as a public service for people in search of cybersecurity information for everyday life.

Since 2014, Rx for Reading Detroit has distributed 150,000 new and gently used books in Detroit and surrounding communities.
The Center for Career & Professional Development (CCPD) helps students transition from school to career through such resources as TitanCareerLink, campus interviews and career fairs. The CCPD engages with more than 2,000 employers seeking candidates for full-time and part-time professional job opportunities. CCPD employer partners also provide career education services to Detroit Mercy students through on-campus workshops and company site tours. The center also operates a clothing closet through community donations which gives students access to a wide selection of professional attire at no charge. In addition, students who are not required to complete an internship for graduation may obtain academic credit for their internship utilizing the CCPD LAC Course.

The University Ministry Office offers a weekly service in the city program for students to serve Detroit organizations such as La Casa Guadalupana and Loyola High School. Detroit Mercy students serve as tutors for students on a regular basis and provide other forms of assistance. One Saturday each month, groups of students assist with Habitat for Humanity, the Pope Francis Center, Capuchin Soup Kitchen, Arts & Scraps and many other organizations.

Detroit Mercy's partnership with Macomb University Center, as well as Detroit Mercy's 12 online programs, offers community residents the opportunity to further their education at or close to home. Detroit Mercy has educational partnerships with University of Windsor, Aquinas College, Henry Ford College and Cornerstone University as well as affiliation agreements with additional area community colleges to facilitate the transfer of academic credits.

Detroit Mercy’s three libraries hold a combined collection of more than 1.5 million items, including print and electronic books and journals, films on DVD and in streaming format, government documents, databases and archival materials.

Through a grant from the Ford Motor Company Fund, Detroit Mercy’s Institute for Leadership and Service supported 17 faculty-student teams that created service-learning projects in which 23 student leaders coordinated projects that allowed 309 Detroit Mercy students to serve more than 3,500 individuals in our community. Detroit Mercy’s Institute for Leadership and Service has partnerships with area community organizations and agencies such as Mercy Education Project, Pope Francis Center, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Focus:Hope, Neighborhood Services Organization, Manna Meals, Gesu School, etc., in order for students, faculty and staff to volunteer their support to address some of the area’s social problems and injustices. Each school year, approximately 1,500 student volunteers provide service in conjunction with more than 100 community service agencies.

Detroit Mercy offers more than 100 academic majors and programs. Sponsored by the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) and the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, the University has three campuses located in or near downtown and northwest Detroit.

Detroit Mercy is one of 28 Jesuit colleges and universities, and the largest of 17 Mercy institutions of higher education, in the United States. U.S. News & World Report’s “Best Colleges” Edition ranked Detroit Mercy No. 187 in the Best National Universities category and is one of four universities in Michigan ranked among the top 200 in the nation.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION about University of Detroit Mercy’s academic programs or about its community outreach activities, please contact the Marketing & Communications Department at 313-993-1254 or email marcom@udmercy.edu. Through academic programs, professional clinics and joint ventures with business and community organizations, the University contributes to the general well-being of the metro Detroit community and the Southeast Michigan region. This commitment reflects the University’s mission, which emphasizes concern for the dignity of the individual and for the common good of the world community.

2020-21 Demographic Facts

- Detroit Mercy enrolled 2,663 undergraduate, 1,171 graduate and 1,183 professional school students in fall 2020 for a total enrollment of 4,987.
- About 85% of Detroit Mercy students are Michigan residents; 6% are out-of-state residents (from 34 states) and 9% are international students.
- Detroit Mercy offers more than 100 academic degrees and programs, including 39 certificate programs, 45 bachelor’s degrees, 39 master’s degrees, seven doctoral programs, professional degrees and one specialist degree. Of these programs, 12 are offered online.
- Detroit Mercy has more than 88,000 living alumni, represented in every state in the nation and in 78 countries around the world.

The Titan Equity Nourish Network (TENN) develops student leaders through thoughtful engagement with community-driven initiatives that promote a more equitable and sustainable local food system. The program provided opportunities for 428 students to learn more about the local food system and how they could have an impact on short-term effects and understand core issues. It is run by a team of 23 student leaders and engaged 377 other students who provided 1,400+ hours of service. TENN partnered with neighborhood organizations such as Lakeridge Village, the Princeton Street Block Club, Project Healthy Community, the San Juan Block Club and food partners like Tommy’s and Metz Culinary Management to recover over 10,000 pounds of food that would otherwise be discarded and delivered it to more than 300 Detroiters.

Cultural and Athletic Activities

Detroit Mercy Theatre Company (DMTC) presents four main stage productions and six second stage productions annually. The DMTC hosts after-gloows and a discussion series for local residents that engage in social justice values.

The McNichols Library and the Genevieve Loranger Exhibition Center present the works of local artists, as well as those of faculty and students, and are open to the public.

Detroit Mercy offers a variety of lectures and programs that are open to the public, including the Architecture Lecture Series, the annual Cushion Distinguished Lecture in Religious Studies, the annual McElroy Lecture on Law and Religion, DeWitt C. Holbrook Lecture on Social Justice, the annual Carney Latin American Solidarity Archive Lecture Series, Black Abolitionist Archive and African American Studies Program special presentations and Business Alumni Week Keynote Speaker.

In addition, the University offers service opportunities in celebration of MLK Jr. Day each year and celebrates Black History Month with a vast array of speakers and special events throughout February. Detroit Mercy also hosts the annual Interfaith Dinner, annual International Dinner & Celebration and Faith in the D Excursions, which provide participants opportunities to visit many sacred spaces throughout Detroit.

Detroit Mercy’s 17 NCAA Division I athletic teams provide year-round sports activities with exhibition and league play held on the McNichols Campus; the sports events are open to the public.